

I claim:

1. A method for securing an appointment with a healthcare provider comprising the steps of:

5 said healthcare provider uploading an appointment schedule onto a database via a network communications system;

10 a patient inputting said patient's static information and said patient's current information onto said database via said network communications system;

15 said patient accessing said appointment schedule;

20 said patient selecting an available time period on said appointment schedule for an appointment; and

25 said patient securing said appointment with an electronic transaction.
2. A system for securing an appointment with a healthcare provider, said system comprising:

15 a database for storing said healthcare provider's appointment schedule and a patient's static information and current information;

20 an input means for receiving said healthcare provider's appointment schedule and said patient's static information and current information;

25 a recording means for storing said healthcare provider's appointment schedule and said patient's static information and current information in said database;

30 a process means for said patient securing an appointment during a time period, said process means carry out the operations of:
  - a) displaying said healthcare provider's appointment schedule to said patient;

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- b) allowing said patient to designate said time period;
- c) facilitating an electronic transaction on behalf of said patient to provide for payment for said appointment; and
- d) updating said healthcare provider's appointment schedule such that said time period is no longer listed as available.

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- 3. A method in a computer system for securing an appointment with a healthcare provider, the method comprising:

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- receiving said healthcare provider's appointment schedule;
  - storing said healthcare provider's appointment schedule in a database;
  - receiving a patient's static information and said patient's current information;
  - storing said patient's static information and said patient's current information in said database;
- processing said patient's choice of an appointment time period;
- facilitating an electronic transaction by said patient to secure said appointment; and
- updating said healthcare provider's appointment schedule.

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- 4. In article of manufacture comprising:

A computer useable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for controlling a system for securing an appointment with a healthcare provider, said computer readable program code means in said article of manufacture comprising:  
computer readable program code means for causing receiving a patient's static information and said patient's current information;

computer readable program code means for causing storing said patient's static information and said patient's current information in said database;

computer readable program code means for causing processing said patient's choice of an appointment time period;

5 computer readable program code means for facilitating an electronic transaction by said patient to secure said appointment; and

computer readable program code means for updating said healthcare provider's appointment schedule.

10 5. A method of facilitating securing an appointment with a healthcare provider over a computer network comprising the steps of:  
receiving said healthcare provider's appointment schedule;  
storing said healthcare provider's appointment schedule in a database;  
receiving a patient's static information and said patient's current information;  
15 storing said patient's static information and said patient's current information in said database;  
processing said patient's choice of an appointment time period;  
facilitating an electronic transaction by said patient to secure said appointment; and  
20 updating said healthcare provider's appointment schedule.